

BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1970

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	-	Margaret H. F. Turnbull, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	-	D. A. Pamphilon, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (SENIOR)	-	J. Stocker, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS	-	Miss W. Ridley, Diploma P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.
	-	T. Townsend (appointed 14.9.70.) Diploma P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

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BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Westgate,
Bridgnorth.

August 1971.

To: The Chairman and Councillors

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1970.

As in previous years the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. D. A. Pamphilon, has been entirely responsible for the sections dealing with Environmental Hygiene, Housing and Supervision of Food.

A third Additional Public Health Inspector joined the Health Department during the latter half of the year thus bringing the staff up to full establishment for the first time for almost four years. The work of the Public Health Inspectors increased greatly during the year especially in the field of meat inspection as will be seen in the relevant section of the Report.

Regarding the health statistics the Birth Rate is above the England and Wales average and the Death Rate well below. The Still Birth and Infant Mortality Rates are rather higher than the national average for the year but this need not cause concern. In an area of small population wide fluctuations can occur in these statistics from year to year.

Apart from measles which was prevalent amongst the child population, the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases was pleasingly low.

As a result of the Department's staff being brought up to establishment, it was possible to commence work on a survey of housing throughout the District and good progress was made.


At Alveley the first phase of re-development consisting of 21 bungalows, a Community Centre with Warden's accommodation and 12 houses was nearing completion by the close of the year. In all, 69 units of Council accommodation were under construction at 31st December. Private housing development continued throughout the District with a total of 179 completed dwellings and a further 105 in course of construction at 31st December. There was a gratifying increase in applications for Improvement Grants during 1970 as a result of the increased allowances under the provisions of the Housing Act 1969.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation to all who have assisted in the preparation of this Report and in particular to Mr. D. A. Pamphilon and Miss C. M. Bryan.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

MARGARET H. F. TURNBULL
Medical Officer of Health.



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STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres	125,668
Estimated Population (Mid-1970)	32,250
Number of Inhabited Houses (at 31.12.70)	11,437
Rateable Value of the District (at 1.4.71.)	£1,116,676
Estimated Product of 1p Rate (at 1.4.71.)	£10,670

VITAL STATISTICS

1. POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the District at mid-1970 was 32,250, an increase of 270 on the corresponding estimate for 1969. The natural increase in population, i.e. the number of live births less the number of deaths was 227.

2. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

There were 553 live births in the area in 1970 of which 29 were illegitimate (5.0%)

The Birth Rate for the year (standardised for comparison with the corresponding Rate for other areas) was 17.8 per 1,000 of the population. This is well above the average Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1970 of 16.0.

A more detailed analysis of the birth figures is given below:-

LIVE BIRTHS 1970

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	271	15	286
Female	253	14	267
Total	524	29	553
Rate per 1,000 of population	16.2	0.9	17.1

Crude Birth-Rate, per 1,000 of population	-	17.1
Standardised Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population	-	17.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1970	-	16.0

(b) Stillbirths

There were 10 Stillbirths in the District in 1970, giving a Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (i.e. live births and stillbirths combined) of 18.0. This is rather higher than the England and Wales figure for 1970 of 13.0.

3. DEATHS

There were 326 deaths in the area during 1970, the various causes of which are detailed in the Annual Return of the Registrar General below.

As has been the case in recent years, conditions affecting the Heart and Circulation caused the highest number of deaths. In 1970, 80 men and 76 women died from such causes, i.e. 47.8% of the total deaths. Malignant disease accounted for 62 deaths, 42 male and 20 female. This represents 19.0% of the total number. There were 15 deaths from Cancer of the Lung & Bronchus.

The standardised Death Rate per 1,000 of the population was 10.8, which is well below the England and Wales figure of 11.7.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1970

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Late Effects of Respiratory T.B.	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	3	-	3
stomach	5	4	9
intestine	8	1	9
lung, bronchus	12	3	15
breast	-	7	7
prostate	7	-	7
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	6	5	11
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	1	1
Diabetes mellitus	1	3	4
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	-	1
Anaemias	-	2	2
Other diseases of nervous system	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic heart disease	2	2	4
Hypertensive disease	6	-	6
Ischaemic heart disease	34	30	64
Other forms of heart disease	9	7	16
Cerebrovascular disease	21	29	50
Other diseases of circulatory system	8	8	16
Influenza	6	2	8
Pneumonia	12	12	24
Bronchitis & emphysema	15	1	16
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction & hernia	1	-	1
Cirrhosis of liver	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	2	5	7
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	2	-	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	2	2
Congenital anomalies	1	1	2
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	3	1	4
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	2	3
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	2	4	6
Motor vehicle accidents	3	4	7
All other accidents	5	4	9
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1
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All causes	182	144	326
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NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	5	3	8
4 weeks and under 1 year	3	-	3
1-4 years	1	-	1
5-14 years	-	-	-
15-24 years	-	1	1
25-34 years	3	3	6
35-44 years	2	4	6
45-54 years	5	7	12
55-64 years	39	17	56
65-74 years	56	40	96
75 and over	68	69	137
All ages	182	144	326

4. INFANT MORTALITY

There were 11 infant deaths in 1970, 8 of which occurred within the first week of life.

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 20.0, which is a little higher than the Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales of 18.0.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE 1970

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	7	1	8
Female	3	-	3
Total	10	1	11

Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births - 20.0
 Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births - 18.0
 (England and Wales 1970)

5. MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths related to pregnancy or childbirth in 1970,

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES

All hospitals in the area are administered by Birmingham Regional Hospital Board through its various Hospital Management Committees.

The general hospitals most easily accessible to inhabitants of the Rural District are those at Bridgnorth, Kidderminster, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton. All provide out-patient and in-patient facilities. Similar facilities are also provided at the smaller hospitals at Broseley and Much Wenlock.

Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the isolation hospitals at Wolverhampton or Shrewsbury and patients with Tuberculosis receive initial treatment at Copthorne Hospital or Cross Houses Hospital.

The chronic sick requiring hospital treatment are generally admitted to one of the following Institutions: New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton; East Hamlet Hospital, Ludlow; Shifnal Hospital; The Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge.

2. GENERAL MEDICAL, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY
OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

These services are administered by the Salop Esecutive Council, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.

3. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Salop County Council, as Local Health Authority, is responsible for the provision and administration of the following services:-

Health Centres (none as yet in this area)
Care of mothers and young children
Domiciliary Midwifery
Health visiting
Home nursing
Vaccination and Immunisation
Ambulance Services
Prevention of illness, care and after-care
Domestic help services.

(a) Child Health

There are four Child Health Clinics in the District where regular sessions are held as follows:-

Northgate, Bridgnorth - Mondays: 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Thursdays: 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Youth Club, Highley - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays : 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Child Health Centre, Broseley - 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays:
2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

British Legion Hall, Much Wenlock - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays:
1.30 - 4.30 p.m.

In recent years there has been a considerable increase in population in the Low Town area of Bridgnorth and in Alveley, owing to private housing development. Most of the newcomers are young couples with young families so towards the end of 1970, in response to popular request,

arrangements were made for the County Council's Mobile Clinic to visit Low Town twice monthly and Alveley once a month to provide full clinic facilities in these areas. The Mobile Van is stationed in the Well Meadow Estate on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month from 9.45 a.m. to 12 noon and by the Village Hall, Alveley on the 1st Wednesday in each month from 2 - 4 p.m. So far these sessions have been well attended.

(b) Welfare Foods

The National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Vitamin 'A' and 'D' drops) are available at the Child Health Centres during Clinic hours and at the Mobile Clinics.

(c) Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Domiciliary Midwifery

The District is well served by full-time and part-time staff of the County Health Department.

(d) Vaccination and Immunisation

Under the County Council's scheme, children up to school-leaving age may receive protection against Diphtheria, Whooping-Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Measles (with appropriate booster doses as required) by arrangement with a general practitioner or at any Child Health Centre or Mobile Clinic by appointment. Protection against German Measles is also available for girls approaching adolescence.

As from July 1971 routine vaccination against Smallpox will no longer be offered. It is considered that the likelihood of contracting Smallpox nowadays in this Country is so slight as not to justify the continuation of vaccination as a routine procedure in infancy and childhood.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis is offered each year to all children aged 11-13 years who are found by preliminary testing to require this protection. Only very few parents refuse their consent for this procedure, which is carried out at the schools.

(e) Ambulance Service

The Central Ambulance Department for the County is in Shrewsbury (Telephone No. Shrewsbury 6331) to which all requests for an ambulance should be made.

(f) Domestic Help Service

The service of a domestic help is available, in the words of the Act, for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age". Enquiries regarding this service are dealt with at the Domestic Help Office, Bridgnorth Child Health Centre (Telephone No. Bridgnorth 3078) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 2.15 and 4.30 p.m.

The following sections of the Report deal with the wide range of the environmental health services which are the responsibility of the Council.

During the year a detailed programme covering the Council's responsibilities in the field of environmental health was agreed with the Council's Organisation and Methods Consultants and approved by the Council.

This took into account the considerable increase in the throughput at the Eardington Slaughterhouse, there being an increase of 200% over the figures for 1969. It also included the outstanding work under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 and the commencement of the Housing Survey as required by the Housing Act 1969.

WATER SUPPLIES

The responsibility for providing mains water supplies to the Rural District is that of the East Shropshire Water Board and the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.

EAST SHROPSHIRE WATER BOARD

Joint High Level Water Supply Scheme

The area supplied by this Scheme comprises the upland Parishes to the West of the District. Water is taken from the Elan Aqueduct and pumped to a storage reservoir at Coreley from which it is fed by gravity to the distribution system after chlorination. The Ditton Priors and Monkhopton areas are supplied with water from the Board's service at Stoke St. Milborough.

I am informed by the Engineer to the Board that a branch main will be laid in Ditton Priors to serve the Council houses and some County Council smallholdings, but it is disappointing to note that outstanding sections of the original proposals of Stage III of the Scheme will not be dealt with until 1973/74 programme.

Low Level Water Supply Scheme

The above Scheme was completed by the Rural District in 1962 and now serves some 20 Parishes within the District.

Water for the Scheme is taken from the Elan Aqueduct at four points where it is chlorinated and distributed by gravity, flourides being added to the water at source by Birmingham Corporation. The Scheme is also supplemented in certain areas by water from the source at Stoke St. Milborough.

Much Wenlock

Water is supplied from a borehole situated off the Broseley Road where it is chlorinated and pumped to a reservoir at the rear of the Lady Forester Memorial Hospital. The supply is distributed by a balanced system.

Broseley

Water is supplied from a borehole at Beckbury where it is chlorinated and pumped to a reservoir at Posenhall and distributed by gravity.

WOLVERHAMPTON WATER UNDERTAKING

Bridgnorth Borough

Water is supplied from a borehole at Rindleford where it is chlorinated and pumped to reservoirs at The Hermitage and Ludlow Road from whence it is distributed by gravity to the town.

Work was commenced during the year on laying a new main from the borehole at Roughton to the reservoir at the Hermitage.

Claverley, Worfield and Rudge

These Parishes are within the Statutory Area of the Wolverhampton Water Undertaking and the main centres of population are well served. The water comes from boreholes at Hilton where it is chlorinated and distributed throughout the Parishes.

Reports from the Wolverhampton Water Engineer show that water supplied to the District is adequately chlorinated and satisfactory in quality.

PURITY OF SUPPLIES

(a) Mains Supplies

Regular routine sampling of all public mains supplies is carried out by the Health Department to ensure that chlorination has been effective and that no pollution has occurred in the course of distribution.

Samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Shrewsbury for bacteriological examination. A summary of the reports received during 1970 is as follows:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Elan Aqueduct (not chlorinated)	6	1
East Shropshire Water Board	129	8
Wolverhampton Water Undertaking	25	1

Where samples on analysis are found to be unsatisfactory, they are immediately brought to the attention of the appropriate Water Authority. Further check samples are taken to ensure the supply is satisfactory.

(b) Private Supplies

Such supplies from wells, springs, etc. must always be looked upon with suspicion. This again is shown by the results of samples taken from these supplies during the year. Of 57 samples taken, 39 proved to be unsatisfactory on bacteriological analysis.

In areas of sparse population it is most unlikely that mains water supplies will be available to every household which makes it imperative that those private supplies which do exist must be protected from possible pollution. Unfortunately many such supplies are of a shallow nature and are subject to chemical pollution from the use of fertilisers as well as bacteriological pollution from inefficient disposal of sewage and effluents.

PREMISES RECEIVING WATER FROM PUBLIC PIPED SUPPLIES
AT 31ST DECEMBER 1970

	<u>No. of Houses</u> <u>31.12.70.</u>	<u>Connected to Public</u> <u>Mains 31.12.70.</u>
Acton Round	42	7
Alveley	588	505
Astley Abbotts	156	111
Aston Botterell	27	5
Aston Eyre	24	1
Barrow	-	-
Billingsley	38	35
Bridgnorth	-	-
Broseley	-	-
Burwarton	45	4
Chelmarsh	155	130
Chetton	118	63
Claverley	532	438
Cleobury North	39	9
Deuxhill	9	8
Ditton Priors	190	30
Eardington	132	113
Easthope	28	-
Farlow	68	13
Glazeley	9	5
Highley	985	974
Kinlet	189	165
Middleton Scriven	27	13
Monkhopton	59	21
Morville	120	64
Much Wenlock	-	-
Neen Savage	107	94
Neenton	32	15
Quatt	91	47
Romsley	38	20
Rudge	36	5
Shipton	43	---
Sidbury	14	2
Stanton Long	57	4
Stockton	-	-
Stottesdon	272	175
Sutton Maddock	-	-
Tasley	75	74
Upton Cressett	13	-
Worfield	706	593

N.B. No figures are available for those areas added to the District as a result of the Salop Orders 1966.

In addition to the above, a further 43 properties in the Parish of Worfield are served by private estate mains which are fed by a bulk supply from the East Shropshire Water Board borehole at Harrington.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Council's continuing awareness of their responsibilities for the provision of new and the extension of existing sewerage schemes and sewage disposal works is evident in their future Capital Programme.

There are eleven public sewerage schemes within the Council's area, at Alveley, Bridgnorth, Broseley (2), Claverley, Eardington, Highley, Homer, Much Wenlock, Stottesdon and Worfield.

Alveley

Unfortunately no progress can be reported regarding the provision of a sewer to serve properties in the Woodlands Estate area where a most serious public health nuisance exists from the effluent of septic tanks. It is hoped that the necessary work will be completed during 1971.

The sewage disposal works are working at design capacity and difficulty is experienced in maintaining a satisfactory effluent. It is hoped it will be possible to provide an extension to the works in the near future.

Bridgnorth

As reported in previous years serious overloading at the Stanley Lane Sewage Disposal Works exists and a satisfactory effluent is only achieved by re-circulation and irrigation of part of the effluent over grass land.

A local Investigation by an Inspector of the Department of the Environment was carried out during the year into the provision of a new sewage disposal works at The Slads, Eardington which should relieve the overloading of the Stanley Lane works and make provision for the sewerage of other areas not previously catered for, namely Quatford and Danesford.

Broseley

The area is served by two disposal works at Fish House and Dark Lane. The effluent from the Fish House disposal works improved during the year but was still not up to River Authority standards and proceedings were instituted for an alleged contravention of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act 1951. The hearing is to be held on 19th January 1971.

A local Investigation into the provision of a new sewerage scheme for Broseley and part of Barrow and the provision of a sewer to the Gitchfield Sewage Disposal Works of the Telford Development Corporation is to be held on the 12th January 1971 by an Inspector of the Department of the Environment.

Claverley

The works for this Village continue to produce a satisfactory effluent.

Eardington

The disposal works for this scheme were overloaded especially because of drainage from a local slaughterhouse. Negotiations with the Owner to improve this effluent proceeded during the year and the Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare drawings for the drainage of the Village to the proposed Slads Sewage Disposal Works.

Highley

Flows at this works are in excess of design capacity but an improvement in the effluent has been achieved by re-circulating the effluent at the rate of approximately 1 d.w.f. This can only be temporary and steps will still have to be taken to carry out the necessary extensions to provide the appropriate capacity to meet the ultimate demands for the Village.

Homer

A satisfactory effluent is being produced from these works and an appreciable proportion of properties in the area are now connected.

Much Wenlock

Work commenced during the year on Contract I of Stage III of this Scheme, this being the provision of new sewers, and the Department of the Environment indicated that they were willing to authorise the remaining phase of Stage III to proceed. The provision of these sewers will eliminate some long-standing public health problems which followed heavy rain and sudden storms.

Stottesdon

It must again be reported that the response from owners of property with regard to connections to the public sewer has been disappointing and as a result only 50% of the works is at present in commission.

Worfield

Although these works are at design capacity, a satisfactory effluent is produced.

Programmed Schemes

Ackleton & Stableford

Work commenced during the year and satisfactory progress can be reported regarding this Scheme.

Morville

It is anticipated that it will be possible to invite tenders for this Scheme early in 1971.

Hilton

No further progress can be reported with regard to this Scheme which will eventually be a joint scheme with Worfield and Wyken.

Chorley

No more definite forecast can be made for the commencement of this Village scheme, but the scheme is considered to be essential for the future if houses in the Village are to be improved and provided with modern amenities.

Danesford & Quatford

Serious public health nuisances exist in this area where crude sewage is discharged to the River Severn. The areas will be sewered when the new Disposal Works is provided at The Slads.

Ditton Priors

With the increased use of mains water supplies in this Village, public health nuisances are becoming increasingly evident in ditches and brook courses. The Consulting Engineers were instructed during the year to prepare a Scheme for the Village for inclusion in a future Capital Programme.

Future Schemes and Policy

The Council are aware that they will have for many years to come a commitment to provide sewage disposal schemes in many villages and hamlets throughout the District.

The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare outline Schemes in the following areas:-

Astley Abbotts
Aston Botterell
Brockton
Burwarton
Button Oak
Oreton
Tasley

Other areas of the District must now be considered, such as Chelmarsh, Button Bridge and the Heathton/Draycott areas, where public health nuisances exist owing to the difficulties in disposing of effluent from septic tanks.

A considerable number of properties exist in the Norton/Sutton Maddock areas and a scheme will no doubt be necessary in this area in the future. The present system of sewage treatment is rather primitive in many cases.

Council House Sewage Disposal Plants

There are 23 private sewage disposal plants serving various Council house sites. These receive regular maintenance together with the public sewage disposal plants by mobile teams of attendants.

Private Sewage Disposal

The Council operate a septic tank/cesspool emptying service of which considerable use was made during the year, enabling users of such drainage systems to carry out their maintenance more efficiently and economically.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service is by the Council's direct labour, all Parishes receiving a weekly collection.

The paper sack system of refuse collection is now used by some 9,000 properties distributed throughout the District. The system will be further extended during 1971 when all properties will be served by this system.

Refuse is still disposed of by tipping on land, some five sites being used for this purpose. Because of the number of sites used and their scattered nature, the complete covering of all refuse immediately after

tipping is seldom achieved and the method of tipping cannot therefore be termed "controlled".

If the Council are going to continue in the future with this method of refuse disposal it is clear that controlled tipping in a hygienic manner will only be achieved if a central tip is used where mechanical means of covering the refuse can be employed regularly.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

A local authority is responsible by the provisions of Part 1 of the Factory Act 1961 for ensuring the adequacy and suitability of sanitary accommodation in factories where mechanical power is used. In the case of factories where mechanical power is not used the general working conditions are also supervised.

At the end of 1970 there were 102 factories on the Register, all using mechanical power.

In addition to visits made by the Council's Public Health Inspectors, factories are also visited by Her Majesty's Factory Inspectorate who refer any relevant contraventions of the Act to this Authority. It is now clear that such dual inspections are an unnecessary use of man power and the Factories Act should become the sole responsibility of Her Majesty's Factory Inspectorate.

All plans of new factories or conversions are scrutinised by the Health Department in order to ensure that they comply with relevant legislation.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act makes provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in offices or shops premises and certain railway premises.

There are now 284 registered premises employing 1275 persons in the Council's area. Some 106 visits were made to these premises for the administration of the Act and its relevant regulations during the year.

All registered premises have now received an initial inspection when the various provisions and requirements of the legislation were brought to the occupier's attention. In addition to such premises receiving further visits to ensure that any contraventions which have been brought to the occupier's attention have been dealt with, it will be necessary to make re-inspections of premises as time progresses.

One of the principal objects of the Act is to ensure that employees work in conditions as free as possible from occupational hazards.

Generally speaking, good co-operation has been received from occupiers of registered premises when contraventions of this legislation have been brought to their attention.

AGRICULTURE, (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT 1956

Sections 3 and 5 of the above Act place a duty on local authorities in connection with the provision of sanitary conveniences on farms where agricultural workers are employed.

Specific visits are not made to agricultural holdings for this purpose but when such premises are visited, the subject is borne in mind.

No requests for the enforcement of this legislation have been received during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

The above Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats and dogs is carried on. The act came into operation on 1st January 1964 and 7 establishments are licensed by the Council.

AIR POLLUTION - CLEAN AIR ACT 1956/68

Visits are always made to factories whenever excessive emissions of dark smoke are noted and the management's attention is drawn to their responsibilities under the above Act. Generally speaking very good co-operation is received from management in this respect and any occasional emission has been found to be caused by breakdown in boiler plants. On no occasion has it been found necessary to resort to legal proceedings to secure compliance with the relevant requirements of this legislation.

However it has been necessary to give increased attention to the burning of refuse and waste products by various industrial concerns including garage premises, where on occasions quite serious pollution has been caused.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Various complaints have been received during the year regarding noise nuisances, varying from domestic noises to those created by industry. In all cases a satisfactory solution to the problem has been found without resorting to enforcement action.

THE ALKALI ETC. WORKS ORDER 1958

All factories carrying on processes which are registrable under the above legislation are supervised by the Alkali Inspectorate of the Department of the Environment and good co-operation between those Officers and this Council's Officers is achieved.

However, it is regrettable that there has still not been any permanent solution found to the considerable nuisance caused by a factory

where metal recovery is carried out by the burning of scrap cable. Because of the factory's proximity to domestic properties, the matter is now one of urgency.

PEST CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 requires a local authority to inspect all premises in their District and to ensure that any infestations of rats and mice are dealt with by the Authority (or by the occupier in the case of trade and agricultural premises). A total of 575 requests for the use of the service were received during the year, 135 more than in 1969.

All Council owned properties (including tips and sewage disposal works) are regularly inspected and treated when infestations are found.

During the year the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food withdrew their Officers who had been working in the containment area surrounding that area of the Shropshire/Montgomeryshire border where Warfarin resistant rats exist. In view of this change in Ministry policy it has now been deemed advisable for practical purposes to treat all infestations found and reported in Parishes west of the River Severn as being resistant to the anti-coagulant poison Warfarin. No infestations of rats which have been found east of the River Severn have been considered to be Warfarin resistant and good control is still achieved with anti-coagulants.

A further pest which has been particularly troublesome in the more urban areas of the District has been the feral pigeon. Although considerable time has been given to trying to control it, not very satisfactory results can be reported. Pigeons cause considerable damage to property, are dirty and are capable of carrying diseases which are communicable to man.

CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

There are 1,220 caravans stationed on 19 licensed multiple sites within the District. 31 of these on two sites are residential caravans, the remainder being used for holiday purposes.

Generally speaking it can be reported that all sites comply with their Site Licence Conditions and good co-operation is achieved with site owners. Unfortunately no work was started on the proposed touring caravan site at Presthope during 1970 but it is hoped that the site will be partly operational during 1971.

GYPSIES AND OTHER TRAVELLERS

The Caravan Act 1968 requires the County Councils to provide sites for caravan dwellers. It is anticipated that Salop County Council will be providing various sites in the County but as yet no site has been provided. One suspects that this is as a result of District Councils being unable to agree to the provision of land for suitable sites.

No particular problems have arisen in this area where only the more regular gypsies are those who carry out casual farm work.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing - Public Health Acts	276
Housing Acts	796
Applications	44
Council Houses	27
Problem Families	28
Revisits to property under notice	47
Interviews with owners etc.	30
Drainage	313
Refuse tips	49
Sewage works	16
Water Supply - General	23
Samples	242
Rodent Control - Domestic	20
Trade	4
Farms	74
Factories Act	26
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	212
Meat Inspection - Slaughterhouse	947
Food and Drugs - Catering	94
Retail Shops	248
Licensed premises	149
Butchers	75
Bakehouses	23
Fried Fish shops	9
Ice Cream	24
Ice cream samples	36
Poultry Dressing	261
Market Stalls	7
Food and Drugs	98
Schools	18
Swimming Baths	75
Infectious Diseases - enquiries	67
Verminous Premises	28
Keeping of Animals	5
Offensive accumulations	10
Miscellaneous	105
Caravans	25
Caravan Sites	42
Animal Boarding Establishments	5
Clean Air Act	53
Noise Abatement	12
Public Conveniences	50
River Notices	10
	<hr/>
	4,703
	<hr/>

The above list shows the number of visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors throughout the year and also indicates the nature of the work and where emphasis has had to be given.

There were 260 complaints and requests for help and advice received by the Department during the year.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are now two open-air swimming pools in the area which are open to the public. The pool at Highley was finished during the year and brought into commission. The water for the pool at Swancote is supplied from a borehole and is treated by chlorination, filtration and aeration.

The pool at Highley is supplied with water from the mains and treated by chlorination and filtration.

In addition there are now seven schools in the area which are provided with a swimming pool and where regular sampling of the water is undertaken by the Health Department. The technique required to maintain a water of a satisfactory bacteriological quality in these swimming pools is one of some complexity and requires considerable care and experience by the persons responsible for their maintenance.

Results of samples taken are shown below:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Highley	6	2
Swancote	6	2
Apley Park School	8	2
Worfield C. of E. School	9	1
Bridgnorth Secondary - Boys	6	-
Much Wenlock Secondary	3	-
Cotsbrook Hall School	1	-
City of Coventry School	3	-
St. Mary's C. of E. School	6	1
	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
Totals	48	8
	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>

HOUSING

(Figures at 31st December 1970)

Number of inhabited houses	11,437
Number of Council owned houses	2,413
Number of houses completed: a) Council	22
b) Private	179
Number of applications for Council houses	614
Number of houses under construction: a) Council	69
b) Private	105

SCHEDULE A

The general housing situation existing in the District at 31st December 1970 may be summarised as follows:-

Grades at <u>31.12.63.</u>		Grades at <u>31.12.69.</u>	Grades at <u>31.12.70.</u>
2,281	Grade 1 - Houses which are in all respects fit for human habitation	3,260	3,359
768	Grade 2 - Houses which require minor repairs and/or additional facilities	728	735
898	Grade 3 - Houses which lack basic amenities, require extensive repairs and/or structural alteration but, it is considered, can be rendered fit at reasonable expense.	707	688
383	Grade 4 - Houses which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be rendered fit at reasonable expense.	294	281
<u>4,330</u>		<u>4,989</u>	<u>5,063</u>
	Private Houses in Barrow, Bridgnorth, Broseley, Much Wenlock and Shifnal (Grades not available)	4,622	
	Council houses in Barrow, Bridgnorth, Broseley, Much Wenlock and Sutton Maddock etc.	1,658	
		<u>11,269</u>	
	Add: Private houses built in year	179	
	Council houses built in year	22	
		<u>11,470</u>	
	Less: Demolitions	33	
	Total houses at 31.12.70.	<u>11,437</u>	

It is essential that all houses within the District be graded by means of a housing survey in order that the quality of housing in the area may be appreciated and progress noted from year to year. As a result of the Department's staff being brought up to establishment, it was possible to commence work on the housing survey and good progress was made during the year.

SCHEDULE B

POST WAR COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Completed in year ending 31.12.70.</u>	<u>Under Construction 31.12.70.</u>	<u>Total Completed Post-War</u>
Alveley	22	26	72
Barrow	-	-	12
Bridgnorth	-	-	607
Broseley	-	-	462
Chelmarsh	-	-	12
Chetton	-	-	6
Claverley	-	-	44
Ditton Priors	-	-	20
Eardington	-	-	16
Eudon George	-	-	6
Highley	-	-	168
Kinlet	-	-	14
Monkhopton	-	-	14
Morville	-	-	18
Neen Savage	-	-	10
Neenton	-	-	8
Shipton	-	-	6
Stockton	-	-	6
Stottesdon	-	-	15
Sutton Maddock	-	-	21
Tasley	-	-	6
Much Wenlock	-	43	137
Worfield	-	-	88
	<u>22</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>1,768</u>

PRE WAR COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

Bridgnorth	114
Broseley	95
Highley	56
Much Wenlock	82

Total pre-war 347

Other Council owned houses including houses converted to flats, other houses and slum clearance properties	288
Flats leased with shops	10
	<u>2,413</u>

FUTURE COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING PROGRAMME

It is anticipated that work towards providing the following units of accommodation will be commenced in 1971.

Alveley

The first phase of development consisting of 21 bungalows, a Community Centre with Warden's accommodation and 12 houses was nearing completion at the end of the year. The second phase consisting of 32 houses is due to commence in 1971.

Much Wenlock

The development at High Causeway, consisting of 21 bungalows and 22 houses, commenced during 1970.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

The Council continue to follow their policy of encouraging the improvement of houses by giving discretionary grants of 50% up to a maximum of £1,000.

The Housing Act 1969 with its increased grants for the improvement of houses has given an impetus to this aspect of the Council's housing programme as can be seen from the figures below.

Housing Acts 1959/69

Discretionary Grants

	<u>Received</u>	
	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
(a) Number of applications	11	31
(b) Number of dwellings involved	14	39

Standard Grants

Number of applications received	30	46
---------------------------------	----	----

UNFIT HOUSES

During the year only 12 individually unfit houses were dealt with under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act 1957, as follows:-

Demolition Orders	3
Closing Orders	7
Undertaking to make fit	2

A further 33 unfit houses were demolished as a result of action both formal and informal under the Housing Acts.

All properties remaining in the Alveley Clearance Area (No. 3) 1965 were demolished during the year as further progress was made on the first phase of the Alveley Development.

Two further Clearance Areas were confirmed during the year as follows:-

- Bridgnorth Rural District (Hill Top, Benthall) Clearance
Order 1970 in respect of 3 houses
- Bridgnorth Rural District (King Street, Broseley) Clearance
Order 1970 in respect of 2 flats and 3 houses

One of the major tasks confronting the Council in the future is the formulation and implementation of a general housing programme combining both the improvement of sub-standard houses and the clearance of unfit houses.

COUNCIL HOUSES

At the end of the year the housing applications position could be summarised as follows:-

Applications	435
Applications for aged persons accommodation	179
	<u>614</u>
Tenants requiring a transfer of accommodation	185

The number of applications from persons requiring aged persons bungalows is significant in that it is some 29% of the total number of applications. This, coupled with the fact that the standard of housing of elderly persons is generally worse than that of younger persons must make the provision of this type of accommodation a priority for all future building programmes. In addition thought must be given to providing such accommodation in our more rural communities, for not all old persons wish to leave the surroundings they have known all their lives.

The Council have continued in their policy of modernising pre-war Council houses and this programme will be continued in 1971.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are four licensed slaughterhouses in the District, situated at Bridgnorth, Broseley, Claverley and Eardington.

All animals slaughtered in the District during 1970 were inspected although this has meant the Inspectors working outside normal office hours.

The total number of animals inspected was 44,115 compared with 14,268 during the previous year. This significant increase was a result of the activities of a wholesale firm of butchers who use the Eardington Slaughterhouse.

As will be appreciated such an increased throughput necessitates a Public Health Inspector being on duty at the Slaughterhouse for considerable periods whilst killing is in progress.

The following table gives details of all carcasses inspected and condemned at the slaughterhouses during 1970:-

	Cattle inc. Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	3,707	99	32,733	9.576	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcase condemned	1	1	51	5	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	262	Nil	1,288	373	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	7.06	1.01	4.08	3.95	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected submitted to refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The total quantity of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 4 tons, 9 cwts. 3 Qtrs. 26 lbs.

Again comment is made of the high incidence of parasitic infections in all animals.

The facilities afforded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Veterinary Laboratory, Woodthorne, Wolverhampton, were utilised during the year and their opinions on the various specimens submitted were appreciated.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All meat found to be unfit for human consumption at the slaughterhouses is removed by approved knackers for sterilization in accordance with the requirements of the Meat (Sterilization) Regulations 1969.

FOOD INSPECTION AND HYGIENE

A Council is required by the Food and Drugs Act and its relevant regulations to ensure that all food is fit for human consumption. In carrying out this duty, which receives little publicity, Public Health Inspectors make regular inspections of all food premises whether they be for the preparation, storage or sale of food. In addition the condition of the premises and the cleanliness of food handlers is closely supervised.

A considerable amount of publicity has been given recently to the date coding of food stuffs. Attention is always given to this when inspecting food premises but it must be appreciated that only when food is unfit for human consumption can action be taken to condemn it.

Many complaints were received during the year regarding food and all have been most carefully investigated. In some cases it has only been considered necessary to send a warning letter. In others, legal proceedings have been instituted, details of which are given later in the report.

The following foods inspected in shops, schools or restaurant kitchens were found to be unfit for human consumption and were satisfactorily disposed of by the Department.

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qtrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Meat at retail shops		9	3	17
Canned meat, fruit and vegetables		9	-	16
Wet fish		1	2	14
Other Foods		6	2	13
Total	1	7	1	4

In addition to the above, the following frozen foods were surrendered as a result of breakdowns and electricity cuts affecting refrigerators and deep freeze cabinets:-

	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Fish</u>	<u>Vegetables</u>	<u>Fruit</u>	<u>Pastry</u>	<u>Cake</u>	<u>Ice-cream</u>
Packets	920	400	114	-	15	-	19

It has been found necessary again to give careful attention to frozen food cabinets when visiting shop premises. In many instances it has been found that shop keepers are unaware of the necessity to rotate stock regularly. All too often does the shop keeper only replenish stock at the top of the cabinet, leaving stock at the bottom for periods in excess of its recommended storage life.

Opportunity has been taken during the year to give talks on food hygiene to senior pupils in local schools and to women's organisations.

POULTRY DRESSING PREMISES

There are now 11 poultry dressing premises in the District, but only four kill on a regular basis. These last premises receive visits whenever killing takes place and some 29,874 birds were inspected of which 190 were rejected as being unfit for human consumption. Other premises receive less frequent visits in order to ensure that preparation of birds is carried on in a hygienic manner. A total of 261 visits have been made throughout the year to these premises.

TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

(a) Type of Food Premises in the Area

1. Butchers Shops	27
2. Fried Fish Shops	9
3. Bakehouses	7
4. Licensed Premises	106
5. Licensed Clubs	15
6. Catering Premises	39
7. General Provision Stores	132
8. Schools	33
9. Schools (with kitchens)	19
10. Poultry Dressing Establishments	11
11. Market Stalls	11

(b) Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955

1. Manufacturers of preserved foods	17
2. Ice-cream	108

108 premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of ice-cream.

The following table shows the results obtained from 41 samples of ice-cream which were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination:-

<u>GRADES</u>				
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Total</u>
30	8	2	1	41

As a guide to interpreting the above results, it is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1; 80% into Grades 1 and 2; not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

In the case of those samples which were found to be in Grade 4, follow-up visits were made and advice given to the retailers on correct storage and handling procedures.

Mobile vehicles based at premises outside the area are inspected whenever possible but it is not practical to carry out sampling procedures in respect of these vehicles.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The Food and Drugs Authority for this area is the Salop County Council and the following is a report received of the work carried out in this area by the Officers of that Authority during 1970:

MILK SAMPLES

Pasteurised	14
Channel Islands Pasteurised	8
Untreated Farm Bottled	16
Untreated Channel Islands Farm Bottled	9
Untreated Bottled	4
Sterilised	
Bulk untreated Ex-Farm	78
	<hr/>
	129
	<hr/>

One untreated Farm Bottled sample was found to contain penicillin. Legal proceedings were instituted against the producer who was fined £20 with £4.14s. Od. costs.

The remaining samples above were satisfactory.

OTHER FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES

Sausage Rolls	2	Salad Cream	1
Cheese with Cucumber	1	Gelatine	1
Liqueur Preserve	1	Apricot Chutney	1
Multivitamin Tablets	1	Dried Soup Mix	1
Plain Flour	1	Lemon Marmalade	1
Margarine	1	Creamed Mushrooms	1
Piccalilli	1	White Bread	1
Pork Sausage	2	Cornish Pasties	1
Soluble Aspirin Tablets B.P.C.	1	Bronchial Mixture	1
Fruit Salad in Syrup	1	Mild Beer	2
Beef Stew with Vegetables	1	Beef Steak in Gravy	1
Liquid Paraffin B.P.	1	Desiccated Coconut	1
Salmon Spread	1	Apple Sauce	1
Curry Powder	1	Cough Mixture	1
Tomato Chutney	1	Coffee	1
Pork Luncheon Meat	1	Mayonnaise	1
Condensed Soup	1	Anchovy Paste	1
Decaffeinated Coffee	1	Pork Pie	1
Grapefruit Sections	1	Malt Drink	1
Instant Creamed Potatoes	1	Beef Casserole with	1
Tomato Ketchup	1	Vegetables	
Vodka	1		
			<hr/>
			45
			<hr/>

One sample of white bread was found to contain a coin. A warning letter was sent to the vendor.

A slab cake was found to be affected by mould. Legal proceedings were instituted. The defendants, who pleaded guilty, were fined £25 with £15 costs.

A tea cake was found to contain a drawing pin. Legal proceedings were instituted. The defendants, who pleaded guilty, were given an absolute discharge and ordered to pay £12. 12s. Od. costs.

A packet of sausages was found to be affected by mould. A warning letter was sent to the vendors.

A pork pie was found to be affected by mould. Legal proceedings were instituted against the manufacturers who pleaded guilty and were fined

£40 with £15 costs.

A bread roll was found to contain a metal bolt. A warning letter was sent to the manufacturers.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (SPECIFIED AREA) ORDER 1960

	<u>Samples Obtained</u>	<u>Phosphatase Test</u>		<u>Methylene Blue Test</u>			<u>Turbidity Test Passed</u>
		<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Void</u>	
Pasteurised	116	116	-	100	10	6	
Channel Islands Pasteurised	34	34	-	31	2	1	
Untreated Bottled	8	-	-	5	3	-	
Untreated Farm Bottled	21	-	-	19	2	-	
Untreated Channel Islands Farm Bottled	22	-	-	18	3	1	
Sterilised	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
	<u>204</u>						

Warning letters were sent to the Dealers concerned in respect of the Methylene Blue failures above and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food informed regarding failures in respect of the Untreated Farm Bottled Samples.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	188
Whooping Cough	5
Scarlet Fever	4
Infective Jaundice	2
Food Poisoning	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	<u>1</u>
	<u>204</u>

Apart from Measles which was prevalent among the child population, particularly in the 1st and 4th Quarters, the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases was pleasingly low.

The two cases of Infective Jaundice both notified in early January, were the last of a series of severe cases which occurred in the Wenlock area late in 1969. The cause was obscure.

There were two new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and one death from this condition.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(a) Factories in which Secs. 1-4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	102	26	Nil	Nil
(c) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	102	26	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of clean- liness (S.1.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
(1)	(2)	(3)	to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	6	3	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK (Sections 110 & 111)

There were two outworkers notified in the District during the year.

